

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01855 182353Z  
ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07  
AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02  
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FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /132 W  
-----191002Z 072520 /12

R 180459Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3217  
INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY SUVA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
CINCPAC  
CINCPACREP GUAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1855

TOKYO FOR RFO

USUN FOR LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, EFIS, NZ  
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND LEGISLATION FOR 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE

REF: (A) WELLINGTON 0999, (B) STATE 042641  
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PAGE 02 WELLIN 01855 182353Z

1. SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND (GNZ) WILL  
INTRODUCE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE BILL NEXT WEEK.  
LEGISLATION, LIKELY TO INCLUDE MOST OF NEW ZEALAND  
POSSESSIONS AND ASSOCIATED STATES WITH EXCEPTION OF  
COOK AND TOKELAU ISLANDS, WILL FORM FOURTH OR FIFTH  
LARGEST ECONOMIC ZONE IN WORLD WHEN IT TAKES EFFECT

AFTER CONCLUSION UPCOMING LOS SESSION. COINCIDENT WITH GNZ ANNOUNCEMENT HAVE COME REPORTED OFFERS BY SOVIETS TO TAKE ENTIRE NEW ZEALAND DEEP SEA CATCH IN JOINT FISHING VENTURE AND GNZ PRESSURE ON JAPANESE TO OPEN ITS MARKETS TO NZ FARM PRODUCTS IN RETURN FOR CONTINUED JAPANESE ACCESS TO NEW ZEALAND FISHING WATERS.  
END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE MAY 16 PRIME MINISTER MULDOON REVEALED THAT GNZ WILL INTRODUCE IN PARLIAMENT NEXT WEEK BILL PROVIDING FOR 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. MULDOON SAID HE WANTED TO HAVE BILL BEFORE PARLIAMENT PRIOR TO HIS PARTICIPATION IN COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT COFERENCE IN JUNE AND SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING IN AUGUST. PRIMIN ADDED THAT TIMING OF EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION WOULD BE ARRANGED SO THAT IT WOULD NOT BECOME LAW UNTIL AFTER CONCLUSION OF COMING LOS CONFERENCE SESSION. ACCORDING TO GNZ, LEGISLATION WILL GIVE NEW ZEALAND WORLD'S FOURTH OR FIFTH LARGEST ECONOMIC ZEONE.

3. HEAD OF MFA LEGAL DIVISION ADVISED POLOFF ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT: (A) DETAILS OF BILL STILL NOT FINAL; (B) PROPOSED LEGILATION WILL IN LARGE MEASURE "CLOSELY FOLLOW REVISED SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT"; (C) LEGISLATION SHOULD NOT CAUSE USG "ANY GREAT HEARTBURN"; AND (D) IT WILL NOT EXTEND TO ALL OF NEW ZEALAND PACIFIC ISLAND PROTECTORATES AND POSSESSIONS. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER POINT, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 WELLIN 01855 182353Z

LEGAL DIVISION HEAD SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED COOK ISLANDS AND TOKELAU ISLANDS FROM LEGISLATION. HE SAID COOKS GOVERNMENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW WITH LEGILSATION OF THEIR OWN BASED ON A 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE AND EXTENDING TO "ALL" OF THE COOKS. THE GNZ WILL HANDLE LEGISLATION COVERING THE TOKELAUS AT A LATTER DATE HE SAID.

4. COMMENT: IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S PRESENTATION LAST MARCH ON LIMITS TO U.S. FISHERY CONSERVATION

ZONE IN AREAS OF WESTERN PACIFIC (DISCUSSION HELD WITH MFA LEGAL DIVISION AS PER INSTRUCTION REFTEL B) MFA ADVISED SOME WEEKS AGO THAT USG PROPOSAL WITH REGARD TO DISPUTED CLAIMS IN TOKELAUS AND COOKS, WAS, IN EFFECT, UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT THE GNZ WOULD PRESS FORWARD WITH CLAIMS AND LINES OF DEMARCATION FOR 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH INCLUDED DISPUTED ISLANDS. IT IS OF INTEREST, THEREFORE,

THAT TWO AREAS APPARENTLY TO BE EXCLUDED -- OR AT  
LEAST NOT INCLUDED -- IN FORTHCOMING ECONOMIC ZONE  
LEGISLATION ARE THOSE SAME DISPUTED ISLAND GROUPS.  
WHILE GNZ REMAINS KEENLY INTERESTED IN USG WITHDRAWAL  
OF CLAIMS FOR THOSE DISPUTED AREAS, IT SEEMS CLEAR  
IT DOES NOT AT THIS POINT DESIRE TO EXACERBATE DISPUTED  
CLAIMS BY IMPOSING 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. END  
COMMENT.

5. COINCIDENT WITH THE GNZ ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE  
200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE HAVE COME (A) REPORTS OF  
A SOVIET OFFER TO ENTER INTO JOINT FISHING VENTURE  
WHICH WOULD TAKE ENTIRE NEW ZEALAND EEP SEA CATCH,  
AND (B) A WARNING BY PRIMIN MULDOON TO JAPAN THAT NO  
FISHING AGREEMENT WOULD BE SIGNED WITH JAPANESE  
INTERESTS UNTIL THE GNZ CAN GET ASSURANCES OF REGULAR  
ACCESS TO JAPANESE FARM PRODUCTS MARKET. COMMENT:  
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PAGE 04 WELLIN 01855 182353Z

MULDOON'S SUSPICION OF SOVIET POLITICAL/MILITARY  
INTERESTS IN NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH PACIFIC REGION  
HAS NOT DIMINISHED, BUT HE APPARENTLY VIEWS THE  
PROSPECTS FOR REGULAR SOVIET PURCHASES OF NEW ZEALAND  
BEEF WITH PRAGMATIC APPROVAL. ON OTHER HAND,  
JAPAN HAS IN PAST YEAR PROVEN TO BE RATHER UNRELIABLE  
MARKET FOR NEW ZEALAND FARM PRODUCTS. MULDOON  
BELIEVES THAT ACCESS TO THE 200-MILE ZONE (FROM  
WHICH JAPAN PULLS 60-100,000 TONS OF FISH  
ANNUALLY) CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY LINKED TO THE CREATION  
OF A LONG-TERM, STABLE JAPANESE MARKET FOR  
NZ DAIRY AND MEAT PRODUCTS. IT IS CONCEIVABLE  
MULDOON WILL ENDEAVOR TO PLAY SOVIETS OFF AGAINST JAPAN  
IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN BEST POSSIBLE TRADING AGREEMENT  
WITH JAPAN, WHICH IS REGARD AS THE PREFERABLE LONG-TERM  
TRADING PARTNER.  
SELDEN

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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